LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A fault monitoring method, comprising the steps of:

providing ~~of a commodity management radio communicating apparatus in which plural~~ a plurality of portable radio communication terminals in a commodity management system, each of which manages ~~manage~~ commodities by communicating with an inventory controller via a radio communication base station, ~~said fault monitoring method comprising:~~;

~~a step of~~ automatically executing a test of a radio communication section in ~~said~~ arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when a number of retrying times of radio communication between said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals and said radio communication base station exceeds a predetermined number of times; and

~~a step of~~ displaying a fault of said radio communication section on a display section of said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when said fault occurs.

2. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A fault monitoring method of ~~the commodity management radio communicating apparatus according to Claim 1,~~ a plurality of portable radio communication terminals used in a commodity management system, each of which manages commodities by communicating with an inventory controller via a radio communication base station, said fault monitoring method comprising:

a step of automatically executing a test of a radio communication section in arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when a number of retrying times of radio communication between said portable radio communication terminals and said radio communication base station exceeds a predetermined number of times; and

a step of displaying a fault of said radio communication section on a display section of said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when said fault occurs,

wherein a call time interval of retrying said radio communication between said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals and said radio communication base

station is set longer than an average communication time of said radio communication between each of said portable radio communication terminals and said radio communication base station in said commodity management system.

3. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A fault monitoring method of ~~the commodity management radio communicating apparatus according to Claim 1,~~ a plurality of portable radio communication terminals used in a commodity management system, each of which manages commodities by communicating with an inventory controller via a radio communication base station, said fault monitoring method:

a step of automatically executing a test of a radio communication section in arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when a number of retrying times of radio communication between said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals and said radio communication base station exceeds a predetermined number of times; and

a step of displaying a fault of said radio communication section on a display section of said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when said fault occurs,

wherein said test for said radio communication section is executed after checking that said radio communication between each of said portable radio communication ~~terminal~~ terminals other than said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals and said radio communication base station is vacant continuously in a case out of an execution prohibiting time zone in said commodity management system.

4. (Currently Amended). The fault monitoring method of a plurality of portable radio communication terminals used in ~~the~~ a commodity management system ~~radio communicating apparatus~~ according to Claim 3, wherein said test for said radio communication section is executed after passing a predetermined time by returning to a check of a vacant state in said case out of said execution prohibiting time zone in said commodity management system when said radio communication between each of said portable radio communication ~~terminal~~ terminals other than said arbitrary

portable radio communication terminals and said radio communication base station and is waited for until said vacant state.

5. (Currently Amended). The fault monitoring method of a plurality of portable radio communication terminals used in the ~~a~~ commodity management system ~~radio communicating apparatus~~ according to Claim 3, wherein said test for said radio communication section is executed after passing a predetermined time by returning to a check of said execution prohibiting time zone of said test in a case in said execution prohibiting time zone in said commodity management system and is waited for until out of said execution prohibiting time zone.

6. (Currently Amended) The fault monitoring method of a plurality of portable radio communication terminals used in a ~~the~~ commodity management system ~~radio communicating apparatus~~ according to Claim 4, wherein said test for said radio communication section is executed after passing a predetermined time by returning to a check of said execution prohibiting time zone of said test in a case in said execution prohibiting time zone in said commodity management system and is waited for until out of said execution prohibiting time zone.

7. (Currently Amended). A storage medium storing a fault monitoring program to cause a computer to carry out a fault monitoring method of a plurality of portable radio communication terminals in a commodity management system, each of which manages ~~radio communicating apparatus in which plural portable radio communication terminals in a commodity management system manage~~ commodities by communicating with an inventory controller via a radio communication base station, said fault monitoring method comprising:

a step of automatically executing a test of a radio communication section in ~~said~~ arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when a number of retrying times of radio communication between said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals and said radio communication base station exceeds a predetermined number of times; and

a step of displaying a fault of said radio communication section on a display section of said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when said fault occurs.

8. (Original) A fault monitoring program to cause a computer to carry out a fault monitoring method of a plurality of ~~commodity management radio communicating apparatus in which plural~~ portable radio communication terminals in a commodity management system, each of which manages ~~manage~~ commodities by communicating with an inventory controller via a radio communication base station, said fault monitoring method comprising:

a step of automatically executing a test of a radio communication section in ~~said~~ arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when a number of retrying times of radio communication between said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals and said radio communication base station exceeds a predetermined number of times; and

a step of displaying a fault of said radio communication section on a display section of said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when said fault occurs.